

**LWML**  
Iowa West District

LWML Iowa West District



April/May 2026



**WE DID IT!  
THANK YOU!**

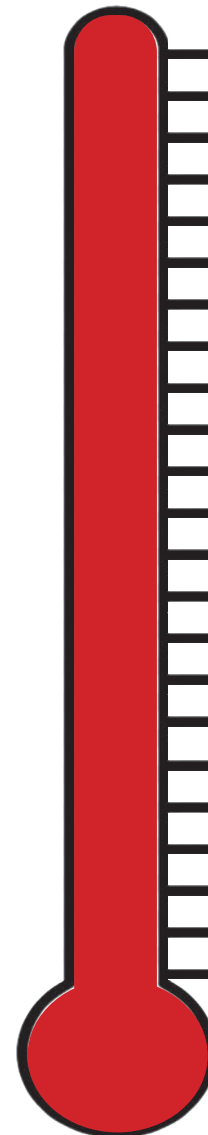
It is with great joy that I, as your Financial Secretary, can report we have collected enough mites to send our 25% of eligible mites to National and keep the 10% for inreach as well as cover all of our grants for the 2024-2026 biennium and even have extra funds for the next biennium. To God be the glory!

Are you having difficulty getting to monthly meetings but still want to support LWML grants? Now you can register for automatic mites donated from a bank account either monthly or as one-time donations. You can type in this link <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZXXP> or use this QR code



## LWML Iowa West District Mission Goal

*2024-2026 Biennium*



\$223,217.43

The June/July eNews articles will be due to Editor Lisa Wilson by May 20.  
Send articles to [lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com](mailto:lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com)

# From our Iowa West District President

Have you seen the light? What light? We now have daylight longer each day! This is very nice. I bought a new flashlight for my husband's Christmas Stocking. It has amazing light he can now find our chocolate lab easily in the dark. That is great but that light only lasts as long as the batteries work. Our convention theme is "Share the Light of Christ". His light is eternal; His light does not require batteries to keep the light bright. And the best part of this is His light is given to us freely and eternally. His light is true and perfect, His light requires nothing from me or you. Praise God our sins have been washed away with the blood of His righteousness.

As we continue to plan our 42nd Biennial IWD LWML convention on June 11-13, 2026. Pray for the planners that we keep our focus on the light. Jesus is the reason He is our why. Why we meet to continue His work in our Iowa West District.

We have many great resources on the LWML website including our pledge in responsive form, that explains each part of our pledge. So many times, we recite and don't hear what we our reciting. In the responsive pledge we

hear:

"By the power of the Spirit, we are pledging our whole selves, body, heart and mind. Consecrate means to devote or dedicate to some purpose. As Lutheran Women in Mission, we consecrate our whole selves to the spreading of His Gospel message through Bible study, service, and supporting LWML Mission Grants."

this is why we "Share the Light of Christ" By the power of the Holy Spirit, we pledge ourselves. His Light is free to us, and we need to share this Light. This light is for all people near and far. Christ died to save all, He called ALL out of darkness, be the light so those who do not know this truth can be in His light with us.

Hope to see all of you at Okoboji, June 11-13, 2026, register today.



*Penny Schuessler*  
LWML - Iowa West District  
President

## 41ST BIENNIAL CONVENTION June 11, 12, 13, 2026 at Camp Okoboji



The theme is "Share the Light of Christ" from the verse "But you are a chosen people, priests of a King, a holy nation, a people to be saved to be His own and to tell of the wonderful deeds of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

**1 Peter 2: 9**

**Convention Goal** "Share the Light of Christ as Daughters of the King!"

**Convention Objectives:** As the Father enlightens us in praise and study, let us worship and adore Him.

While serving the Son, let our willing service shine His saving light. Led on our way by the Holy Spirit, let our paths be illuminated by His redeeming love.

# A very Blessed Good Friday and Easter to all of you.

You know, we have a very interesting way of identifying us to the world, we give each other names. Who we are and how we act is usually conformed to our name. For example, you might meet someone who is named "Chris" and after getting to know them you think, 'yeah, he is a Chris', our nature conforms to our names. Not to mention that there are some very unusual names out there to identify someone. No matter how interesting a name is or how we identify each other, it is a practice that God set into motion at creation as Adam gave names to all the living creatures and also to Eve. From that time forth parents chose and gave names to their children, which identifies them for the rest of their lives.

Now, where I am going with this? It is even more interesting that the way we identify ourselves is just as valid in Heaven, or how God identifies us. The Resurrection of our Lord according to the Gospel of St. John, chapter 20 has Mary Magdalene weeping outside of the empty tomb. Now, Jesus approaches her but she does not recognize Him as Jesus but as the gardener. After a brief conversation Jesus simply says, "Mary", He calls her by name, and upon that her eyes are open to see Jesus as He is and she rejoices beyond measure.

When we are or when we were Baptized we became a child of the Father, and a brother, or sister to Christ; our names were written in the Book of Life. In other words God knows exactly who you are and more precisely, knows you by name. Through your Baptism your identity becomes one

with Christ and through His death and resurrection becomes one with the Father and Holy Spirit.

When we venture through Holy Week, even beginning with Palm Sunday; we are reminded why Jesus came into this world. To Save You. Nothing more intimate can be shown between people than dying for someone. Jesus died for you and with you, that your identity your very name would be in Jesus.

When we look at the Resurrection account, especially here with Mary we are reminded that one day the Lord too will call our names. When that happens, this shroud of sin that covers our eyes hindering the light of our Lord will melt away and we too just like Mary will see our Resurrected, Ascended Lord for who He is; our Lord and Savior. Let this fill you with joy this Easter as we hear those beautiful words of the Angels, "He is not here, He is Risen." Be filled with insurmountable joy, wanting to cling to our Lord, and realizing that He has already clung to us. Go, knowing that the Lord knows you by name and your identity is a child of God. Let your voices proclaim with shouts of joy, 'He is Risen, He is Risen indeed. Hallelujah.'



**Rev. Nicholas  
Thackery  
LWML IWD  
Junior Counselor**



**This photo was taken at Camp Okoboji.  
Does anyone know when? Does anyone recognize anyone?**

## ATTN ZONE PRESIDENTS

### 2026 IWD LWML Convention Memorial Display

Please contact each of your Group Presidents within your Zone and ask them to submit names of those LWML sisters in Christ who have passed away during the period of May 15, 2024 to May 15, 2026. Those names, along with their respective Zone and Town, should be submitted to Deanne North at [dlnnorth@aol.com](mailto:dlnnorth@aol.com) or Jackie Hembry, at [hembrys@msn.com](mailto:hembrys@msn.com).

**Deadline to submit: May 15, 2026.**



## Things to share

Bart asked his friend Dave this question: "Have you let your children know the details of your estate plan?"

That question unleashed a much more dramatic response from Dave than Bart was expecting. "No way. I want it to be a surprise. My kids have no business knowing what we have, or how we plan to disperse it after we are gone. I don't want them to feel entitled to my stuff, hoping I will die soon so they get it all."

While harsh, elements of this response may be present in many, even among Christians. Let's break it down a bit. First, we begin by reminding ourselves that the things in our lives are really not "our" things, but God's things, which He has asked us to manage faithfully on His behalf, to share Jesus with our families and the world around us. Second, not having discussions with children about inheritance robs them of hearing from you your understanding of blessing, and your intentions to respond from a life of faith in managing those blessings. Third, if you are asking family members to carry out estate roles (personal representative/trustee) someday, you need to be giving them clear guidance so they can make sure your God-directed desires are carried out.

Family dynamics can be challenging, especially where sin has left its mark. However, it is crucial, if possible, to communicate your faith and your intentions to family, in an effort to celebrate Jesus together, especially His grace shown on the cross. We don't want to leave these matters dangling. Your Gift Planning Advocate can assist you to know your plan well, to express your faith clearly and to prepare for family conversations. For help, Ann Carrick at 515-360-0709 or by email at [acarrick324@hotmail.com](mailto:acarrick324@hotmail.com)

## Christian Life

Sherrill and I are looking forward to our Iowa West District LWML Convention June 11-13, 2026 – at Camp Okoboji and hope that we will see you there! With this in mind, we have two ideas for you to consider:

1. Check out the new LWML products at [lwml.cph.org](http://lwml.cph.org). The National LWML store is featuring many devotionals, gift items and every day products that promote LWML on their website. We will have a variety of these items, along with limited apparel items available for you to purchase at convention. If you or your group is interested in any of these items, please contact us by April 30 at [iwdlwmlchristianlife@gmail.com](mailto:iwdlwmlchristianlife@gmail.com) or text Deb Rouse at 712.260.4867 to pre-order before convention.

2. Be a Volunteer! We are seeking people to assist with the convention store during our district convention by either restocking or selling items. You may volunteer to help us for 30 or 60 minutes and will need help during these times at convention: noon/evening mealtimes, Thursday afternoon during registration, and Friday evening. If interested, please contact us at [iwdlwmlchristianlife@gmail.com](mailto:iwdlwmlchristianlife@gmail.com) or text Deb Rouse at 712.260.4867.

For your Spring Meetings, Zone Rallies or personal use, check out these ideas from the [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) website:

1. Under "The Word: Program Resources" there is a featured Bible Study and Devotion for each month. April's featured material will show us how we are Side by Side with Jesus and May's Devotion and Bible Study offers comfort as we struggle with some of the many facets of Motherhood.

2. Under "The Word: Spring Resources" there are other Bible Studies, devotions, sketches, and litanies. Locate the "Craft" and "Coloring" sections to find patterns to make Easter or spring ornaments to use as favors or download Easter and Mother's Day bookmarks and notecards to color and share with others.

May God bless you as you continue to read His Word and walk in His ways.



**Deb Rouse**  
Christian Life  
Co-Chairman

# Financial Reports

## Gifts received February and March 2026

### Mission Account

Memorial/Honor District 75%/National 25%	
Marian Stamp	\$25.00
Delores Telford	\$20.00

### Memorial Mites District 100%

Marilyn L Newman	\$4,300.00
Donna Carstensen	\$10.00
Jolene Marie Stoelk	\$50.00
Carlton and Bethene Schulke	\$20.00
Darlene Linde	\$50.00
Karen Wetzstein	\$100.00

### District Gifts 100%

February BOD mites	\$482.00
100th BD of Ruby Anderson	\$50.00

### Other Mites

Faith Adel noisy mites	\$29.70
Faith Council Bluffs noisy mites	\$165.04
Emmanuel Lake View	
Muffins for mites	\$67.51
Faith Early collection	\$114.00
Immanuel Rockwell City	
Red Stocking	\$50.00
Boone zone Prayer service	\$148.00
Faith Early Prayer service	\$40.00

### General Account

Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$328.00
Recycling Denison zone	\$40.07
Recycling Fort Dodge zone	\$74.55

### Light That Endures Funds

Endowment	\$0
Legacy	
Memorial Jennifer Priest	\$25.00
4% Foundation distribution	\$5,641.91

## Annual Report

### April 2025 through March 2026

#### Mission Account

##### 25%National/25%District

Zone mites	\$98,270.56
Memorial mites	\$ 580.00
Other mites	\$ 4,558.19
Stamps	\$ 0
Rally mites	\$ 3,129.99

##### 100%District

Memorials	\$ 4,950.00
District gifts/mites	\$ 3,865.81
Mission Account total	\$115,354.55

#### General Account gifts

Recycling	\$ 127.22
Inreach gifts	\$ 50.00
Thrivent Choice	\$ 470.00
Fall Retreat offering	\$ 1,313.00
80thAnn. Book	\$ 2,025.45

#### The Light that Endures Funds

##### Legacy

Memorials	\$ 50.00
Retirement gifts	\$ 4,000.00
Foundation dist	\$ 5,641.91
Interest from CD	\$ 224.96

##### Endowment

Bequests	\$ 0
Memorials	\$ 75.00

## A Note from Financial Secretary Chris Mahnken

Thank you to the zone treasurers for your service. I would like to recognize those zones who sent mites in at least 10 of the last 12 months. A \* following a zone means then sent mites every month.

Adair\*, Boone, Carroll\*, Council Bluffs\*, Denison, Des Moines East\*, Emmetsburg, Fort Dodge, Humboldt\*, Mapleton\*, Northeast\*, Sac City, Sioux City, Southwest\*.

## THANK YOU!

# Gospel Outreach

## “And Then There Was One”

Less than 2 years ago we selected 10 mission grants amounting to more than \$160,000 in requests to receive the support of our mite and other offerings. Today we have only one partial grant yet to fund. Thank you for your generosity and efforts to support these grants. To God be the Glory!

The LWML IWD Mission Grant Committee and LWML IWD Board of Directors have selected and approved the mission grant ballot for this Summer’s District Convention. We will be posting a video on Facebook (LWML – Iowa West District) early in April that will feature the 16 grants that HIS delegates will vote on. You’ll hear voices from around our District, we are far from professionals, but this serves as a great reminder that supporting HIS Gospel Outreach takes all of us of varying talents and resources to come together.

Speaking of the District Convention, at our February Board meeting we did an ice breaker activity that featured the question, “Do you like our LWML National or District conventions more?”. While I enjoy HIS National conventions attending our District conventions at beautiful Camp Okoboji are special. In 2012 I attended my first Iowa West convention. We had moved earlier that year, I barely knew the women from my own congregation much less anyone else. I’ll never forget the welcome and hugs I received 14 years ago from people I hadn’t known before. There are women I met at that convention that have become lifelong friends. At each convention I continue to meet new Iowa LWML sisters, God had indeed blessed me with amazing Iowa West District friendships.

I encourage you to consider registering and joining us June 11-13 in Okoboji as we “Share the Light of Christ” if you haven’t already done so. We’ll be ready to welcome you with a hug!



**Brenda Dryer**  
VP of Gospel Outreach  
& Special Focus  
Ministries

## 2024-2026 LWML IWD Mission Grants

Grant Recipient	GRANT TOTAL	BALANCE
Rev. Bryan & Deaconess Keah Payne – Tanzania	\$ 10,000	-
Fund Haitian Seminarians	\$ 8,000	\$ -
Serving Hungry & Starving Children With Nutritious Meals and the Gospel	\$ 10,000	\$ -
Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch: Nutrition Center Transformation	\$ 2,000	-
Unity Ridge Lutheran School Scholarship Assistance	\$ 17,120.05	\$ -
Project Equip with Truth for Children, Families, and Church Workers Facing Gender Identity Challenges in Today’s Culture	\$ 19,400	-
Financial Assistance for Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School – Expansion and Curriculum	\$ 25,000	-
Hispanic Ministry Outreach – English as a Second Language (ESL) classes in different churches of the IDW	\$ 20,000	-
Serving “Our Elders” through Meals on Wheels Perry Lutheran	\$ 25,000	\$ -
Financial Aid for Iowa District West Students Pursuing Full-time Church Work	\$ 25,000	\$ 12,500.00
	<b>\$ 161,520.05</b>	<b>\$ 12,500.00</b>

# Mission Servants

## Mission Minded Projects and Telling the Story

What a joy to read what the Iowa District West LWML Zones and Groups are doing to be the hands and feet of Jesus and to spread the Good News of Our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Mission projects remind me of the song “I love to Tell the Story”.

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;  
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true,  
It my longings as nothing else would do.
2. I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat,  
What seems each time I tell it more wonderfully sweet;  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
The message of salvation from God's own holy Word.

As we share our God given talents and provisions, we also share the Good News—near and far—with those who may never have heard it. Each cut and stitch that goes into making a quilt becomes a tangible expression of Christ's love, whether it is used by someone in our own district or sent across the ocean through Orphan Grain Train to a person who may never have had a blanket before. Meals prepared and snacks provided for our youth, community members, or someone grieving the loss of a loved one offer comfort, nourishment, and a reminder of God's care during life's most difficult moments.

Collecting socks for the care packages sent by Phil's Friends to those facing cancer reminds us of the warmth and comfort our Lord provides throughout life's challenging journeys. Even used greeting cards can be transformed into something meaningful—cross shaped bookmarks crafted from them are sent to missionaries in China. What a beautiful way to share the Story, offering a simple cross and the promise of Scripture with each cut made: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Residents in care facilities or those who are homebound often miss gathering in our church buildings and may feel isolated or forgotten. A homemade card and treats prepared especially for them can brighten their day at just the right time. Several zones and groups also share their financial blessings—from community meals and their own contributions—to support future called church workers, especially pastors. God continues to call men into the pastoral ministry to share the Story, and through these gifts, we help ensure that His Word will be proclaimed for generations to come.

These listed projects were a part of the work that the Boone Zone; Adair Zone; Storm Lake Zone and Mapleton Zone completed.

Below are members of the Mapleton Zone LWML who participated in a Mission Servant Event, assisting with the ministry work of Orphan Grain Train.

May we all sing:  
I love to tell the story,  
'Twill be my theme in glory,  
To tell the old, old story  
Of Jesus and His love.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Iowa District West LWML Convention in June.

Please reference the special District Convention E-News for opportunities for in-gatherings.

If you have any questions related to mission projects at any time or in-gatherings for the upcoming District Convention, please reach out to us!!

Mission Servants Chairman Nancy Medick at [nmedick@yahoo.com](mailto:nmedick@yahoo.com)

Mission Servants Co-Chair Ann Schauer at [schauerann@gmail.com](mailto:schauerann@gmail.com)



**Ann Schauer**  
Mission Servants  
Vice Chair



# Historian's Queries

By Gretchen Sump, IWD LWML Historian

As we approach another IWD Convention where we will vote for a new President, I am asking you to please share with me any memories or materials from some Past IWD Presidents. These Past Presidents are of particular interest at this time: Mary Ann Ostermann, 1970 to 1974, Helen Bice, 1994 to 1998, and Luana Kading, 1998 to 2002. I look forward to your responses by e-mail if possible.

## Organizational Resources

"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:24-25.

After the recent snowstorms, it feels refreshing to say that this is now Spring Rally Time! As each zone board and host church makes special plans for this event, it is important that we encourage and support these women by attending these events.

These gatherings are wonderful opportunities for us...

...to meet others in your zone and encourage them as they serve the Lord.

...to hear the wonderful speakers talk about the mission fields they are called to work.

...to hear the Lord speak to us through either Bible study and/or devotion.

...to work together on a service project.

I encourage zone leaders and hosts to find ways to encourage women from different congregations to meet each other and network with each other to gain new insights and ideas. Our [lwml.org](http://lwml.org) website includes many ice breaker ideas in the Planning Resource, "Seek-Pray-Serve" found under the Tab: "The Word: Program Resources."

God's blessings as you gather and may the Holy Spirit guide us to encourage each other as we serve the Lord and spread His Gospel message.



**Jeanette Hinkeldey**  
VP Organizational  
Resources and  
Christian Life

### ELECTED OFFICERS

President

VP Organizational Resources & Christian Life

VP of Gospel Outreach & Special Focus Ministries

Secretary

Financial Secretary

Treasurer

Senior Pastoral Counselor

Junior Pastoral Counselor

Nominating Committee Chairman

Penny Schuessler

Jeanette Hinkeldey

Brenda Dryer

Deb Schmidt

Chris Mahnken

Sharon Hamann

Rev. Edward E. Durand III

Rev. Nicholas Thackery

Julie Carstens

[IWDprespenny@gmail.com](mailto:IWDprespenny@gmail.com)

[hinkeldeyharmonies@gmail.com](mailto:hinkeldeyharmonies@gmail.com)

[bsdryer50@gmail.com](mailto:bsdryer50@gmail.com)

[iwdsecdeb@gmail.com](mailto:iwdsecdeb@gmail.com)

[iwdlwmlfinancials@gmail.com](mailto:iwdlwmlfinancials@gmail.com)

[iwdlwmltreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:iwdlwmltreasurer@gmail.com)

[durande@ymail.com](mailto:durande@ymail.com)

[pastor@goodshepfortdodge.org](mailto:pastor@goodshepfortdodge.org)

[carstensjulie50@gmail.com](mailto:carstensjulie50@gmail.com)

### APPOINTED PERSONNEL

Christian Life Chairman

Christian Life Co-Chairman

Mission Servants Chairman

Mission Servants Co-Chair

Leader Development Chairman

Leader Development Co-Chair

Structure Committee Chairman

Editor/Information Technology Chairman

Parliamentarian

Historian

Sherrill Phillips

Deb Rouse

Nancy Medick

Ann Schauer

Martha Sunderman

Cayleigh McBee

Marilyn Kuehnast

Lisa Wilson

Sue Ackerman

Gretchen Sump

[sherrillphillips2@gmail.com](mailto:sherrillphillips2@gmail.com)

[gdrouse1281@ncn.net](mailto:gdrouse1281@ncn.net)

[nmedick@yahoo.com](mailto:nmedick@yahoo.com)

[schauerann@gmail.com](mailto:schauerann@gmail.com)

[mgraham1783@gmail.com](mailto:mgraham1783@gmail.com)

[cayleigh.mcbee@gmail.com](mailto:cayleigh.mcbee@gmail.com)

[marilyn1945@ncn.net](mailto:marilyn1945@ncn.net)

[lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com](mailto:lisawilsonlwml@gmail.com)

[sjackerman99@gmail.com](mailto:sjackerman99@gmail.com)

[gretchensump3@gmail.com](mailto:gretchensump3@gmail.com)